

English Placement – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the English Placement Test?

This is not a test that you can pass or fail. However, please take the test seriously so we can most accurately assess your skill levels and place you in the appropriate course(s) for your first semester. The English Placement Test assesses your readiness for introductory college courses by measuring your ability to read and write at the college-level.

Where do I go if I want to take the test on site (at Wilbur Wright College)?

You can take the test on any available computer in the library or an open lab at Wright College. However, if you prefer a quiet, controlled environment where you can get help accessing the test on Blackboard, then please make an appointment at the **Testing Office** by going to **L131** or calling **(773) 481-8450**.

Why do I need to take the English Placement Test?

Most new students at CCC need to take placement tests in Writing/Reading and Math. In order for us to understand the writing courses in which you belong, we need to see a serious sample of your writing. Proper placement will help ensure your short- and long-term success.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes. There are a few exceptions:

- Students who received a grade of “C” or better in a college-level composition course (equivalent to English 101) from a regionally accredited college or university. In this case, students must provide official or unofficial transcripts to the Testing Center or an advisor to be exempt from the English placement test. (If any college level English coursework has been completed with a ‘C’ or better, we encourage students to meet with an advisor before taking the test to discuss possible exemptions).
- Students who have taken the ACT exam within the last two years and received a composite score of 21 or above are exempt from taking the English placement test. In this case, students must provide official proof from ACT to the Testing Center or an admissions specialist to be exempt from the English placement test.
- Students who have taken the ACT exam within the last two years and received a subject score of 21 or higher in English and/or Reading are exempt from the English placement test. These students will be placed in English 101. In this case, students must provide official proof from ACT to the Testing Center or an advisor to be exempt from the English placement test.
- Students who have taken the general College Level Examination Program (CLEP) can receive credit for English 101 and English 102.
- Students who have taken the Advanced Placement (AP) exam in English Composition and have earned a score of 3 or 4 are exempt from the English placement test. These students will receive credit for English 101. In this case, students must provide official proof from College Board to the Testing Center or an admissions specialist to be exempt from the English placement test and receive credit for English 101.
- Students who have taken the Advanced Placement (AP) exam in English Composition and have earned a score of 5 are exempt from the English placement test. These students will receive credit for English 101 and 102. In this case, students must provide official proof from College Board to the Testing Center or an advisor to be exempt from the English placement test and receive credit for English 101 and 102.
- Students who have taken the SAT exam within the last two years and received a raw score of 10 or higher on the essay portion are exempt from the English placement test. These students will be placed in English 101. In this case, students must provide official proof from College Board to the Testing Center or an advisor to be exempt from the English placement test.

How long does the test take?

Incoming students can read the English Placement Test FAQs and preparatory materials at their own pace to ensure understanding of the process and expectations of the test. The test itself will take about 2 hours (90 minutes are allotted for the reading and writing portion, with an additional 30 minutes for a final written reflection on reading and writing skills).

How long are placement scores valid?

Your placement test scores are valid for one year. If you have not enrolled in the courses in which you were placed, you are required to retest after one year.

How often can I take the placement test?

You can take the English Placement Test once per calendar year.

What writing course will I be placed into?

Wilbur Wright College offers three different levels:

- **Launch**
- **Accelerated Reading & Composition** (English XXX)
- **English Composition** (English 101)

You will be placed in one of these courses based on your placement results. Below are brief descriptions of each course:

Score of 1 or 11 | Level 1: Launch is an integrated reading and writing course with a focus on helping students improve their reading comprehension and improve control and clarity within their writing. The course will involve thoughtful discussion, engaged critical thinking, the reading of various kinds of appropriate-level texts, and practice effectively communicating clear thoughts through sentence/paragraph level and longer-form writing skills. Students will have the opportunity to improve study skills so as to prepare for long-term success in college credit courses or alternative career-pathways. **Note:** A score of 11 on the test denotes placement in ESL/ELL Launch.

Score of 3 or 33 | Level 2: Accelerated Reading and Composition [ARC] (English XXX) is an integrated reading and writing course designed to increase students' critical thinking, reading, and writing abilities and to promote their academic literacy. The course involves extensive reading and analysis of college-level texts and frequent essay-writing, with built-in support to help prepare students to meet the demands of college coursework. **Note:** A score of 33 on the test denotes placement in ESL/ELL ARC.

Score of 5 | Level 3: English 101 is a college-level composition course commonly required for many programs in most colleges and universities, with a focus on development of critical and analytical skills in writing and reading of expository prose. The course involves extensive reading and analysis of college-level texts and frequent essay-writing, with the expectation that students enter the course with a strong foundation of skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking.

If English is not my native language, will I be placed in an ESL/ELL class?

In some cases students are placed in a course specifically designed for English as a Second Language (ESL) students. As with your English placement in general, ESL/ELL placement will be determined by the English faculty readers.

Some Features of ESL/ELL Courses

- English as a Second Language (ESL) courses are appropriate for students whose native language

is not English and who write with greater ease and fluency in their native language.

- Please note that there is no difference in level between the ESL/ELL and non-ESL/ELL sections of these courses. In other words, some students often think that Accelerated Reading & Composition is a higher-level course than ESL ARC. This is not true. Both courses address the same materials. However, the ESL/ELL course is designed to address the particular needs of students whose native language is not English.
- Wilbur Wright College offers ESL courses at the level of Atlas and ARC.
- Like students who complete and pass ARC, students who complete and pass ESL ARC will advance automatically into English 101.

Where do I go if I need disability accommodations (at Wilbur Wright College)?

If you have a disability and require testing accommodations, contact the Disability Access Center (DAC) at Wilbur Wright College. You may make an appointment at the Disability Access Center by going to **L135** or calling **(773) 481-8015**. For more information about disability accommodations at Wilbur Wright College, please see the **Disability Access Center page** and/or review the **City Colleges of Chicago Student Policy Manual**.

When will my placement test results be available, and how can I access them?

You may check the "My Grades" area in the menu on the left-side of the screen. Please use the question above, about scores and course levels, to understand your score. If you have any questions about your score, please contact advising staff and testing center personnel.

Who will have access to my placement test results?

English faculty, admissions staff, advising staff and testing center personnel will have access to your test and the results.